

# THE



# SUN.

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR.  
NUMBER 10,168.

## The Latest News By Telegraph to the N. Y. Sun. FROM VIRGINIA.

### The Advance on the Left. Gains and Losses. OUR NEW LINE TO BE HELD.

#### The Peace Conference.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

#### Full History of the Affair.

#### M.R. SEWARD'S EXPLANATION

#### City and Miscellaneous News.

#### OUTSIDE ENLISTMENTS PROHIBITED.

#### Additional Arrests of Recruiting

#### Swindlers.

&c., &c., &c.

#### Army of the Potomac.

#### The Fight at Hatcher's Run, Etc.—Our New Position.

The Army of the Potomac still holds the advanced position on the left, gained during the operations on Sunday and Monday. The new position is five miles in advance of our recent line on the extreme left, and includes all the intermediate points along and west of Hatcher's Run. This brings our lines within easy shelling distance of the Southside Railroad, and considerably interferes with the communications between Petersburg and Richmond, and the Carolinas. It is believed that General Grant intends to maintain this position and extend his lines still further towards the southwest. Heavy cavalry reconnaissances are operating in that direction, and inflicting great damage on the enemy's supply trains. The army line railroad is to be extended to the Boydton plank road, and will no doubt be soon connected with the Southside railroad. When this shall have been effected, Petersburg will be rendered untenable. The new position of our troops has been fortified, and is now impregnable against any attack the enemy can make.

The fighting on Monday was much more severe than was at first represented. The Third Division of the Fifth Army Corps lost a total of eleven hundred and forty-eight killed and wounded, out of four thousand who went into action. This proportion of losses to the number engaged in battle is almost unparalleled in warfare. The other corps did not suffer much loss.

The failure of the Fifth Corps on Monday is attributable to the unexplained delay of the Sixth Corps to contact with and support them at the proper time. When the Sixth at last arrived, it was only to man the breastworks to which the Fifth had fallen back. The Third Division of the Fifth Corps had pushed the retreating rebels as far as the tannery near the Southside Railroad, when the enemy receiving reinforcements, turned and furiously attacked our men. Even then they would have held their ground, but unfortunately the ammunition of many of the regiments began to give out. To add to the mishap, the advance field-piece became hopelessly embedded in the swamp, while the rebel artillery was numerous and well served. With a swamp in front, defended by a strong musketry and artillery fire, there was no alternative but to fall back, which was done in tolerable order. The distance to the rear was three miles, and our men frequently paused to attack the advancing enemy. Great praise is given to the Third Division for the unexampled bravery displayed under such untoward circumstances.

On Tuesday, General Crawford's divisions of the Fifth Corps, supported by a portion of the Sixth Corps, advanced cautiously towards Dabney's Mill, in line of battle, with our right resting on Hatcher's Run. The columns moved through the thick woods on each side the road, and at a distance of a mile and a half encountered the enemy's pickets. Brisk skirmishing took place, which resulted in driving the enemy to their works at the mill, where they made a determined stand. At night our men threw up breastworks, and still hold the advanced position gained.

The weather was very bad during the first three days' operations. It did not become clear until Wednesday. The sufferings of the troops away from camp and without the protection of shelter tents was intense. The wounded were in a pitiful condition, obliged to lie all night extended on the bare ground, under the pitiless storm. Many died whom it might have recovered if it had been possible to give them assistance. The Richmond papers think that General Grant intends to attack Weldon, and does not meditate any immediate assault on Petersburg.

**Gen. Lee's Report of the Hatcher's Run Fight.**

The Richmond White of the 8th says the following dispatch was received at the Richmond War Department on the 6th:

**Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, Feb. 6, 1865.—General S. Cooper, A. G.—General.**—The enemy moved in strong force yesterday to Hatcher's Run. Part of his infantry, with their cavalry, crossed and proceeded on the Vaughan road, the infantry to Cuttler Creek, the cavalry to Dinwiddie Court House, while the advanced encampment of part of Hill's and Gordon's troops communicated against the enemy on the left of Hatcher's Run, near Armstrong's Mill. Finding him entrenched, the withdraw after dark. During the night the force that had advanced beyond the creek returned to it, and were reported to be retreating. This morning General Peck's division moved to the right bank of the creek, to re-enforce it, and it was accordingly done. The battle was obstinately contested for several hours, but Gen. Peck being killed, while bravely encouraging his men, and Col. Bedford being wounded, some confusion occurred, and the division was pressed back to its former position, Evans' division, however, having come to its support, and the enemy was forced him to seek, but was again compelled to retire. Mahone's division arrived in time, and the enemy was driven rapidly to his defences on Hatcher's Run. Our loss is reported to be small. That of the enemy not supposed great.

(Signed) E. M. LEWIS.

#### The Peace Conference. Message of President Lincoln to the House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, February 10.

#### To the Honorable the House of Representatives:

In response to your resolution of the 8th inst., requesting information in relation to a conference recently held in Hampton Roads, I have the honor to state that on the day after the date I gave Francis P. Blair, Sr., a card, written on as follows, to wit:

"Allow the bearer, F. P. Blair, Sr., to pass our lines, go South and return."

December 18, 1864. A. LINCOLN.

That at the time, I was informed that Mr. Blair sought the card as a means of getting to Richmond, Va., but he was given no authority to speak or act for the Government; was I informed of anything he would say or do on his own account or otherwise. Mr. Blair told me that he had been to Richmond, and had seen Mr. Jefferson Davis, and he (Mr. Blair) at the same time left with me a manuscript letter, as follows:

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 12, 1865.

P. P. BLAIR, Esq.: Sir.—I have deemed it proper and probably desirable to you to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me to be repeated by you, to President Lincoln, &c., &c. I have no disposition to find obstacles in forms, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send a commission, whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission if the United States Government shall choose to send one. Notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately and renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c., JEFFERSON DAVIS.

(Signed)

Afterwards, with a view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and delivered to Mr. Blair, a letter, as follows, to wit:

WASHINGTON, January 14, 1865.

P. P. BLAIR, Esq., Sir:—I have deemed it proper and probably desirable to you to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me to be repeated by you, to President Lincoln, &c., &c. I have no disposition to find obstacles in forms, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send a commission, whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission if the United States Government shall choose to send one. Notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately and renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c., JEFFERSON DAVIS.

(Signed)

Afterwards, with a view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and delivered to Mr. Blair, a letter, as follows, to wit:

WASHINGTON, January 14, 1865.

P. P. BLAIR, Esq., Sir:—You have shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, now, and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he, or any other influential person may name, to restore the National authority, may informally send me word of his arrival, and I will be ready to see you in person, if convenient, and to receive you on the subject.

Very respectfully yours,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, J. A. CAMPBELL, R. M. T. HUNTER.

General Grant, in a despatch, said:

I have sent directions to receive these gentlemen, and expect to have them at my quarters this evening, awaiting your instructions.

Yours, &c., U. S. GRANT.

Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make an entry on the back of my retained copy of the letter last above recited, which is as follows:

January 28, 1865.

He delivered to Mr. Davis the original of which he within is a copy, and left it with him. That at the time of delivering, Mr. Davis read it over twice in his return to you, he requests it, pass them through our lines to Fortress Monroe by such route and under such military precautions as you may deem prudent, so that it may be received in a comfortable quarter, safe here, and that you set none of this have any effect upon your movements or plans.

By order of the President,

EDWARD M. STANTON, Secretary of State.

Supposing the proper point to be then reached, I dispatched the secretary of State with the following instructions. Major Eckert, however, going ahead of him,

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,  
WAR DEPARTMENT.

Cipher.—The following telegram was received at Washington, January 28, 1865.

From Headquarters, ARMY OF THE JAMES.

January 28, 1865.

Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State:—The following despatch is just received from Major-General Parks, who refers it to me for my action. I refer it to you in view of General Grant's despatch.

E. O. C. ORR, Major-General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

January 28, 1865.

Major Gen. E. O. C. Ord, Head-quarters, Army of the James:

The following despatch is forwarded to you for your action. Since I have no knowledge of General Grant's having had any understanding of this kind, I refer the matter to you as the ranking officer present in the two armies.

J. H. G. PARKS, Major General Commanding.

From Headquarters Ninth Army Corps,

January 29, 1865.

Maj.-Gen. John G. Parks, Headquarters Army of the Potomac:

Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter, and J. A. Campbell desire to cross my lines in accordance with an understanding claimed to exist with Lieut.-Gen. Grant, on their way to Washington, as Peace Commissioners. Shall they be admitted?

They desire an early answer, so as to come through immediately. They would like to reach City Point to-night if they can. If they cannot do this, they would like to come through at 10 A.M., to-morrow morning.

O. B. WILSON, Major commanding Ninth Corps.

Respectfully referred to the President for such instructions as may be pleased to give.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

January 29, 1865.—8:20 P. M.

It appears that about the time of placing the foregoing telegram in my hands the Secretary of War dispatched Gen. Ord as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 29, 1865.—10 P. M.

Major Gen. Ord:—This department has no knowledge of any understanding claimed to exist with Gen. Grant, to allow any person to come within his lines as commissioners of any sort. You will therefore allow no one to come into your lines under such character or pretense until you receive the President's instructions, to whom your telegrams will be submitted for his directions.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Sent in cipher at 2 A. M.

Afterwards, by my directions, the Secretary of War telegraphed Gen. Ord as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 30, 1865.

Maj.-Gen. E. O. C. Ord, Head-quarters, Army of the James:

We desire to go to Washington City, to confer with the President personally, in reference to the interview mentioned in his letter to Mr. Davis, the 18th of January instant. Without any personal communication on any question in the letter, we have the permission to do so from the authorities in Richmond.

Very respectfully yours,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, R. M. T. HUNTER, J. A. CAMPBELL.

Major T. Eckert:

Major T. Eckert, care of General Grant, City Point, Va., Call for me, see Monroe and I will be self-sufficient.

A. LINCOLN.

On the morning of the 2d inst., the following telegram was received from Gen. Grant:

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received at Washington, Feb. 1, 1865.

Mr. T. Eckert, Major, A. Lincoln, President of the United States:—Your note delivered to yourself this day was communicated to me, and I am giving you a copy of it.

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